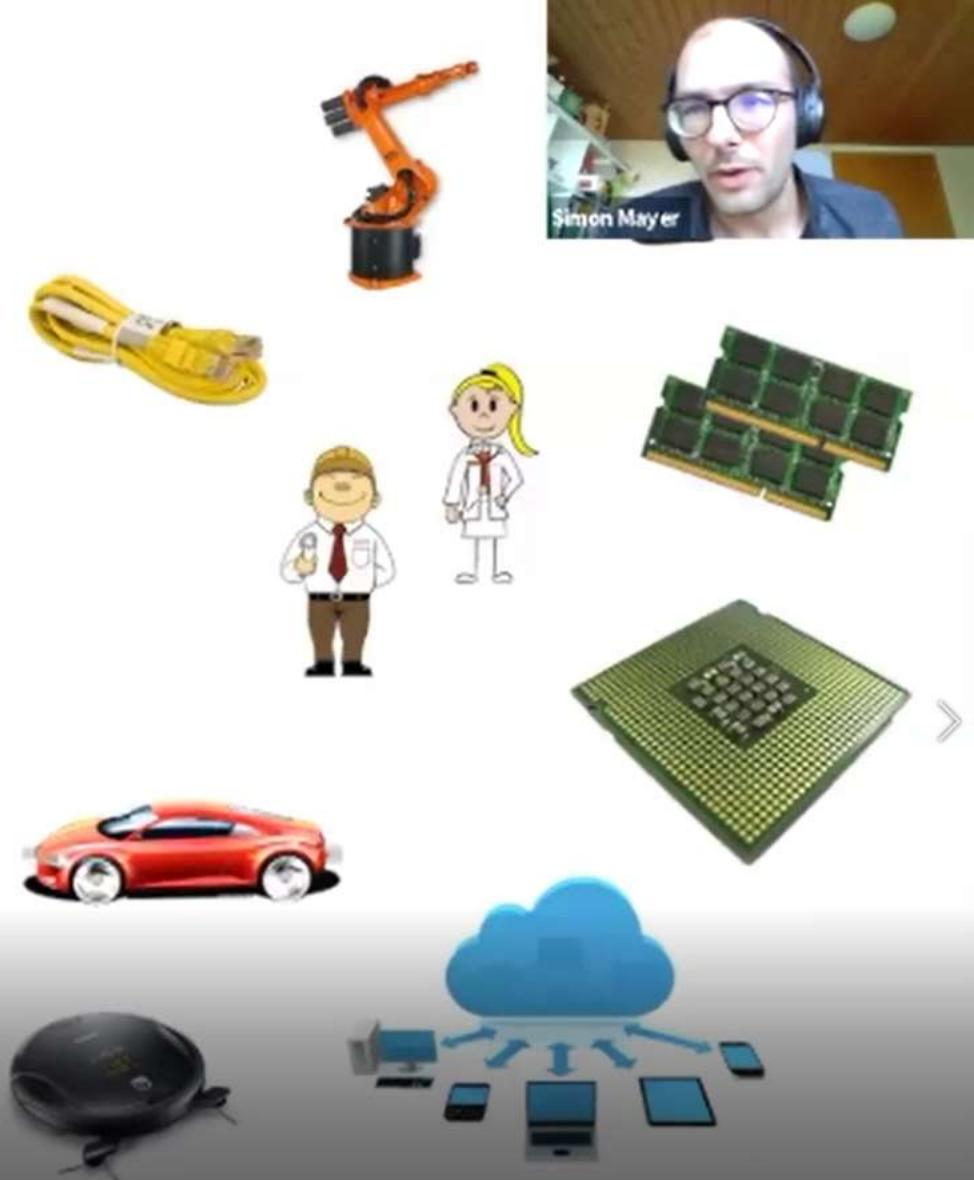


←



Simon Mayer

The Web of Things and Hypermedia for Smart Devices

AI4IF\_SimonMayer\_1

Summer School “AI for Industry 4.0”

27.-31.07.2020

Global (Saint-Étienne / Nuremberg / St. Gallen)

0:00:02 0:49:51

10 ▶ 30

...

# Simon Mayer

PhD in Computer Science, ETH Zurich (→ 2014)

- Hypermedia-based interactions with and between smart devices ("Interacting with the Web of Things")
- Visiting Researcher at MIT (2012; Connected Cars) and at Ghent University (2013; Semantic Technologies & AI Planning)
- Master of Advanced Studies in Secondary and Higher Education (ETH Zurich, 2014)
- BA in Business and Economics (University of Zurich, 2014)

Senior Key Expert, Siemens Corporate Technology, Berkeley (→ 2017)

- Senior Key Expert for Smart and Interacting Systems
- Horizontal and vertical interoperability in distributed industrial systems (manufacturing, smart grids, mobility)

RG Head "Cognitive Products" at Pro<sup>2</sup>Future + Postdoctoral Researcher at TU Graz (→ 2018)

- Interacting and cooperating smart products; interactions of smart products and people

Lecturer at ETH Zurich (2015 →), MIT (2015), UC Berkeley (2015-2017), and TU Graz (2017-2019)

Full Professor of Interaction- and Communication-based Systems at HSG

Senior Scientist at ETH Zurich



# The Web of Things and Hypermedia for Smart Devices



In this lecture, we explore using the Web to **boost application-layer interoperability of Internet of Things devices and services** and as a foundation to **facilitate their usage by clients**.

We discuss principles of the Web of Things, focusing on the design of Web APIs for smart devices and on the usage of hypermedia as the engine of application state.

# Learning Goals



The goal of this lecture is to enable you to:

- **understand** how the Web supports application-level interoperability in the IoT.
- **build** better Web APIs for devices (and other resources).
- **appreciate** the role that hypermedia plays in guiding Web clients.

In the context of the summer school, this should enable you to **perceive hypermedia-based information systems as playgrounds for interacting humans and machines**.

Reinforcing the previous talks by Matthias and Andreas and together with technologies from the **Semantic Web (Tobias)** and from **Multi-Agent Oriented Programming (Jomi)**, this will supply you with a toolset to build **«ideally interoperable» industrial Internet of Things systems**.

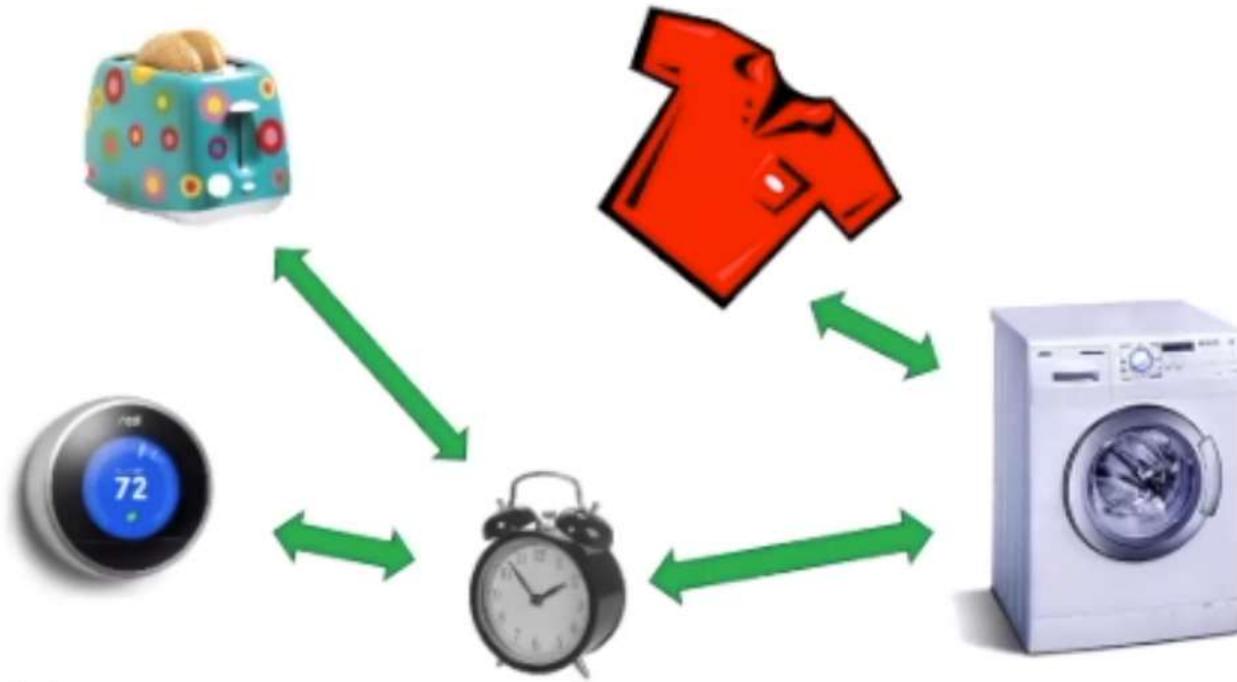
# Our Menu



From the IoT to the WoT: Network-level and Application-level Interoperability  
Discussion: Good Practices for Web APIs  
Tidbits from the Web Architecture  
Hypermedia APIs



# Ubiquitous Computing



The “Social Web of Things” (Ericsson, design study)

- Note the **explicit communication** between David and his home
- Note the **hidden communication** between his smart devices
- Note the **partially autonomous** behavior of the smart environment

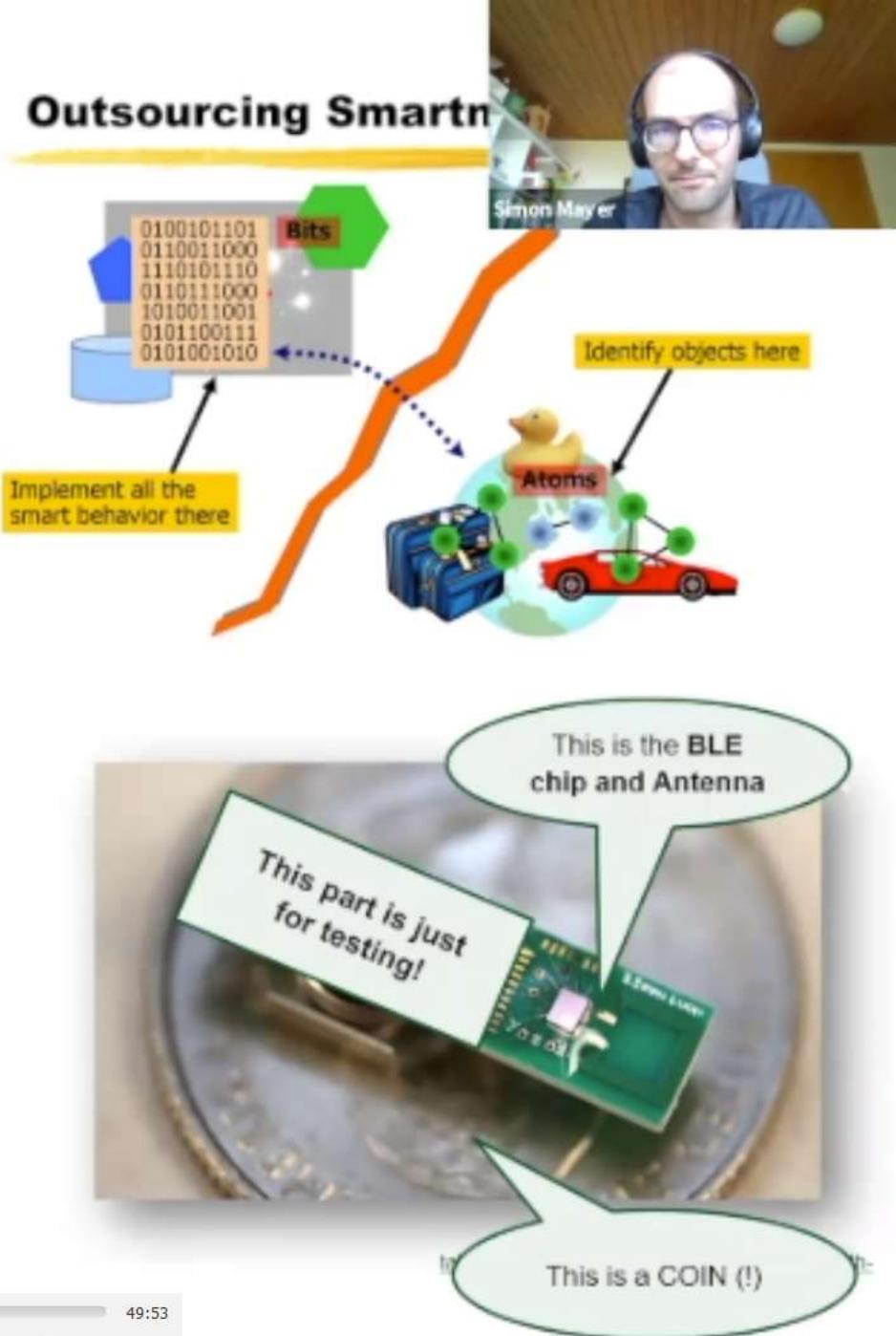
# Ubiquitous Computing

Wireless (and cheap) access to the Internet

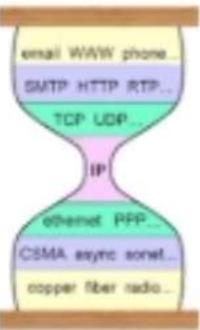
- For **any thing** (→ low-power, passive)
- At **any place** (→ mobile, ubiquitous)
- **Without configuration** ("plug & play" → "arrive & operate")

Object communication **dominates** network usage

- **Real-world objects** will access and use services on the Web and services that are provided by other nearby devices
- They might even integrate with and use these services **autonomously**



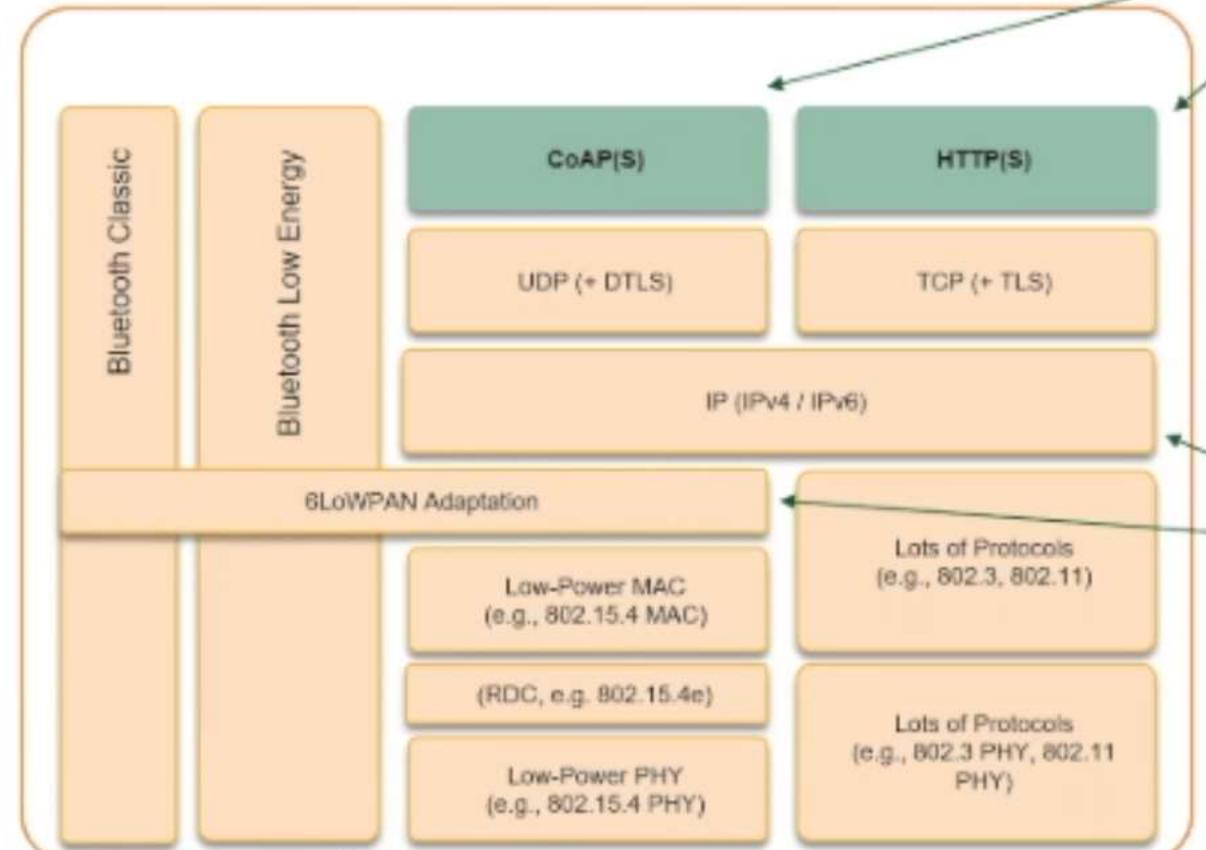
# Distributed Systems Design Space



Source: Steve Deering, Talk at ICFP '01, 2001



Photo: Stephan, used under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.

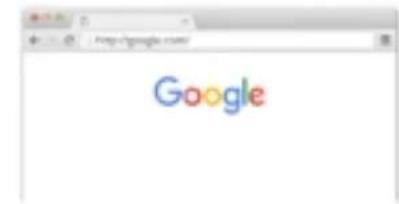


Networking of Tiny Devices



Interoperability on the Application Layer

To understand hypermedia's importance, imagine using any website without it.



Interoperability on the Network Layer



IPv6-based Low-power Wireless Personal Area Networks



University of St.Gallen

# Ubiquitous Computing

UbiComp applications require...

- Reduced power consumption, reduced cost, reduced size, near real-time operation (i.e., small latency)
- **Network-layer** connectivity and integration
- **Application-layer** integration and interoperability: **Web of Things**
- **Semantic-layer** interoperability and understanding: **See tomorrow ;)**



e.g., BLE



IPv6-based Low-power  
Wireless Personal Area Networks

Avoid Network/Application/Semantic  
Fragmentation of Distributed Systems

Why?

To enable exploiting  
«network effects»!

# Network Effects: The Internet Protocol

**ICMP:** Not for data exchange...

**IPsec:** Security layer on top of IP

**IGMP:** Replaced by IPv6 Group Management

**Xerox IPX:** Replaced by IP (1998)

**AppleTalk:** Replaced by IP (1990-2009) [-> Bonjour]

**ITU-T X.25 PLP:** Replaced by IP (~2012; still used in niche applications)



## 3. Network layer [hide]

IP (IPv4 · IPv6) · ICMP · IPsec · IGMP · IPX ·  
AppleTalk · X.25 PLP

7. Application [hide]  
Simon Mayer  
NNTP · SIP · SSI · DNS · FTP · Gopher ·  
HTTP · NFS · NTP · SMPP · SMTP · SNMP ·  
Telnet · DHCP · Netconf · more...

## 6. Presentation layer [hide]

MIME · XDR

## 5. Session layer [hide]

Named pipe · NetBIOS · SAP · PPTP · RTP ·  
SOCKS · SPDY

## 4. Transport layer [hide]

TCP · UDP · SCTP · DCCP · SPX

## 3. Network layer [hide]

IP (IPv4 · IPv6) · ICMP · IPsec · IGMP · IPX ·  
AppleTalk · X.25 PLP

## 2. Data link layer [hide]

ATM · ARP · IS-IS · SDLC · HDLC · CSLIP ·  
SLIP · GFP · PLIP · IEEE 802.2 · LLC · MAC ·  
L2TP · IEEE 802.3 · Frame Relay ·  
ITU-T G.hn DLL · PPP · X.25 LAPB ·  
Q.921 LAPD · Q.922 LAPF

## 1. Physical layer [hide]

EIA/TIA-232 · EIA/TIA-449 · ITU-T V-Series ·  
I.430 · I.431 · PDH · SONET/SDH · PON ·  
OTN · DSL · IEEE 802.3 · IEEE 802.11 ·  
IEEE 802.15 · IEEE 802.16 · IEEE 1394 ·  
ITU-T G.hn PHY · USB · Bluetooth · RS-232 ·  
RS-449

# IP: The Narrow Waist of Networking

**ICMP:** Not for data exchange...

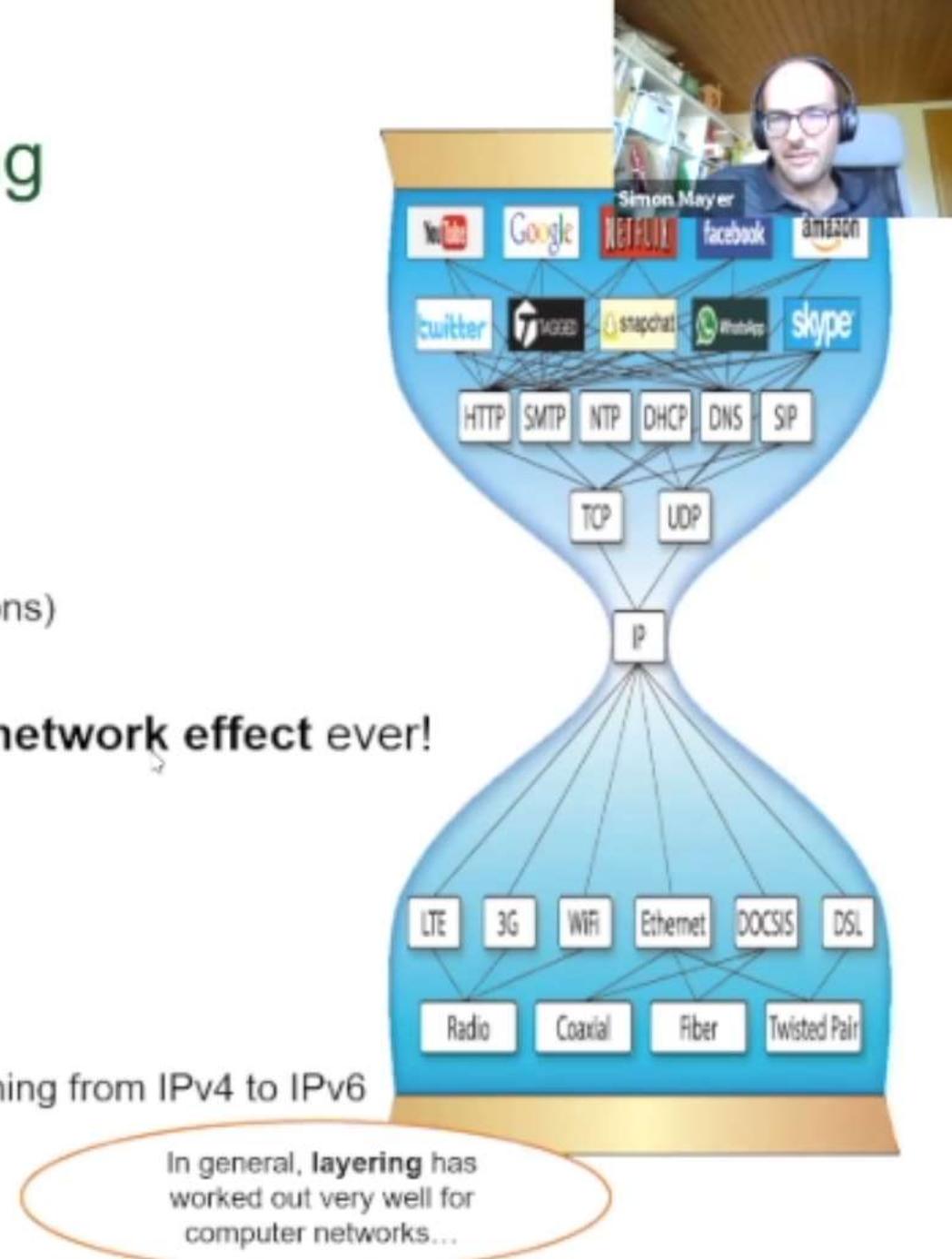
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*"IP over everything, everything over IP"* is the **biggest network effect** ever!

- Fundamental goal: interconnect **heterogeneous** systems
- Fundamental requirement: **global** addressing scheme

Drawback?

- Adding functionality in the network layer is extremely difficult!
- This is exemplified in the **tedious decade-long process** of switching from IPv4 to IPv6

# The Internet of Things

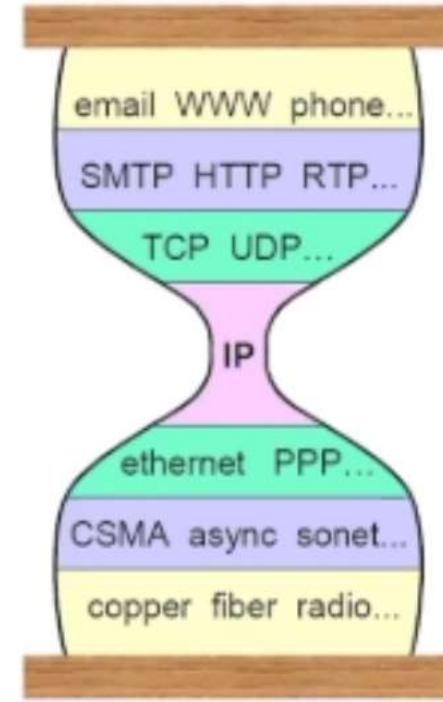
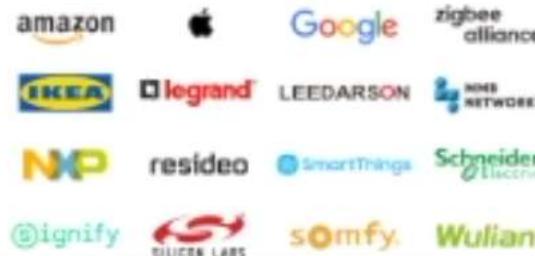


IoT = Internet of Things = IP-enabled Physical Devices

## Original Internet of Things Idea

- Extend that biggest network effect ever to **physical devices**
- One network for **heterogeneous physical systems**
- Stretching into **low-power** systems as well (e.g., LoWPANs)

e.g., in the smart home space: <https://www.connectedhomeip.com/>



# Thread: Branding Low-power Mesh Networking for



Backed by lots of relevant companies

- “Thread Group” Interest Group
- Nest Labs / Alphabet, Apple, Samsung
- ARM, Qualcomm, NXP
- OSRAM, Tyco

**Thread** = a “stack brand name”

- 802.15.4 for the lower layers
- **6LoWPAN for IPv6 compatibility**
- **IP routing for network**
- UDP for little overhead
- DTLS for security
- **“Any” application layer** (should support constrained devices...)

THREAD

Application Layer

UDP + DTLS

Distance Vector Routing

6LowPAN (IPv6)

IEEE 802.15.4 MAC  
(including MAC security)

IEEE 802.15.4 PHY

# History...



Which Olympic Games were the first to have an **official** Website?

Sydney 2000

Atlanta 1996

Barcelona 1992

Athens 2004

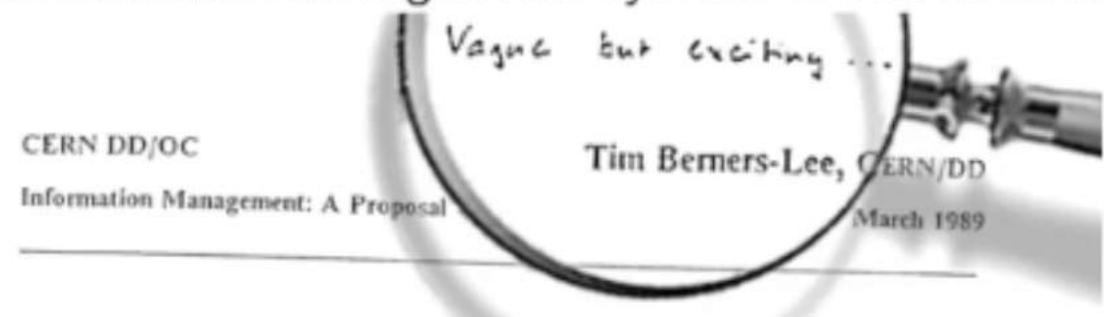
Beijing 2008



# The World Wide Web made the Internet popular...



**1989:** Tim Berners-Lee submits a proposal for an information management system at CERN to his boss, Mike Sendall (<http://info.cern.ch/Proposal.html>)



## Information Management: A Proposal

### Abstract

This proposal concerns the management of general information about accelerators and experiments at CERN. It discusses the problems of loss of information about complex evolving systems and derives a solution based on a distributed hypertext system.

Keywords: Hypertext, Computer conferencing, Document retrieval, Information management, Project control

**1990:** Berners-Lee defines the terms **URI** (then UDI), **HTTP**, and **HTML**, and develops the first components and tools for the Web (browser, editor, server, line-mode browser)

The **World Wide Web** made the Internet popular...

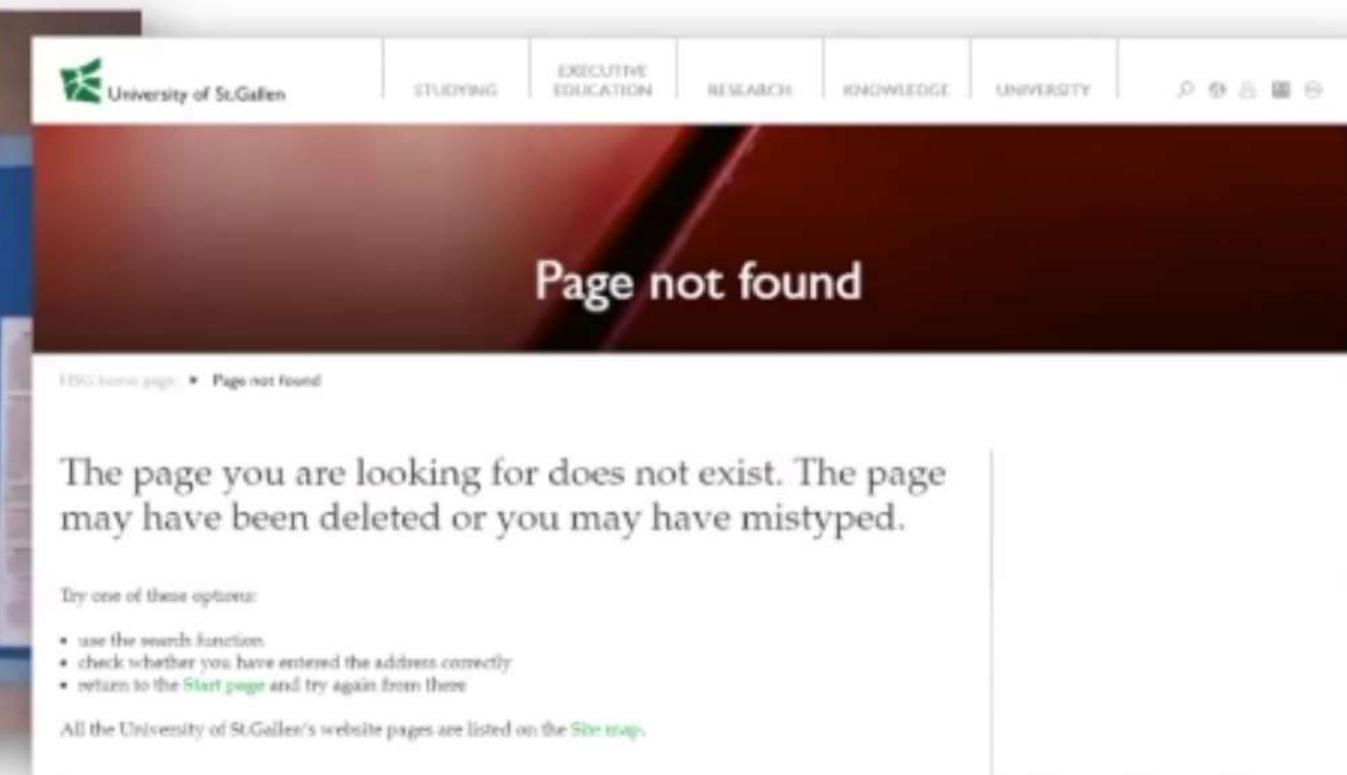


**1991:** Tim Berners-Lee submits a paper on the Web to the *Hypertext '91 Conference*.

The paper is **rejected as an oral presentation** and only accepted as a **poster** contribution...

**"I was part of the camp who really believed that hypertext systems had to be closed systems with bi-directional links."** - Mark Frisse, in 2008

**"Individual links are allowed to break so the entire Web does not."** - Tim Berners-Lee



# The World Wide Web made the Internet popular...



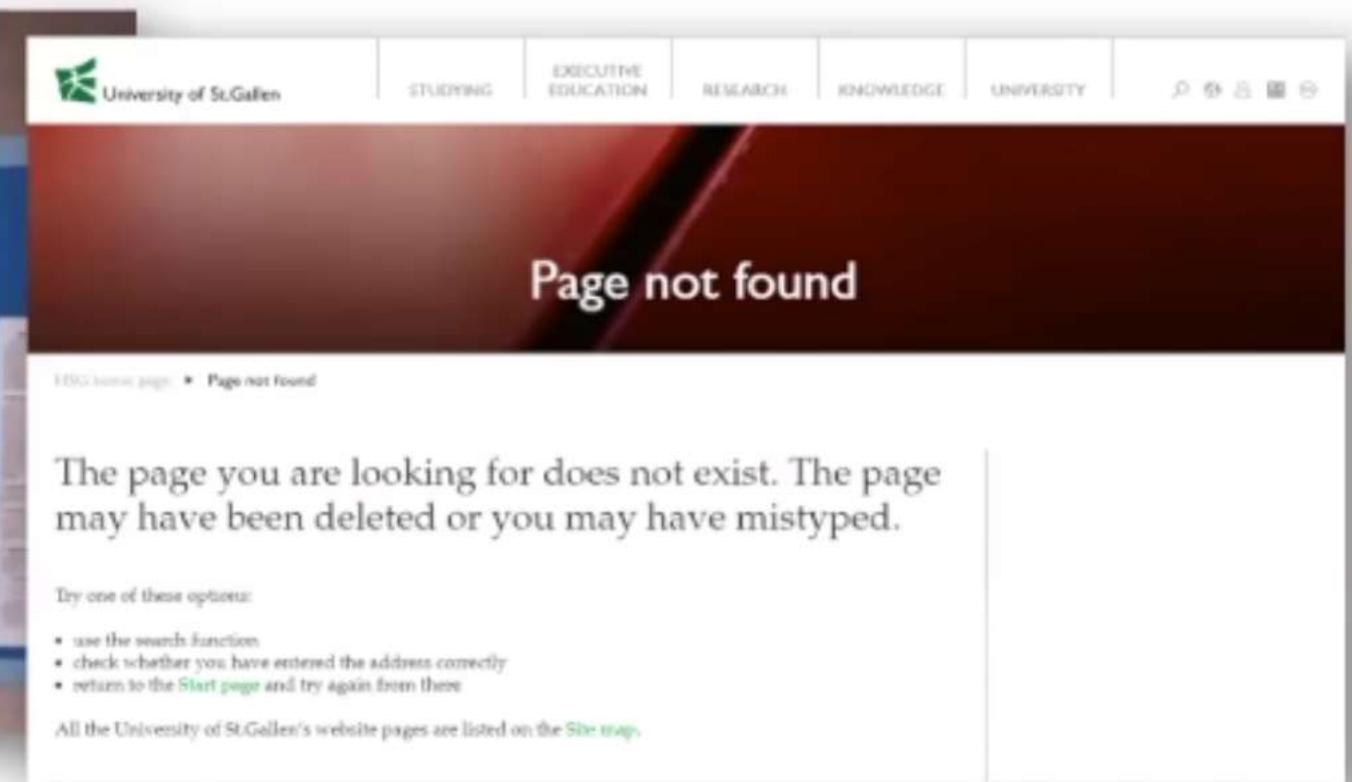
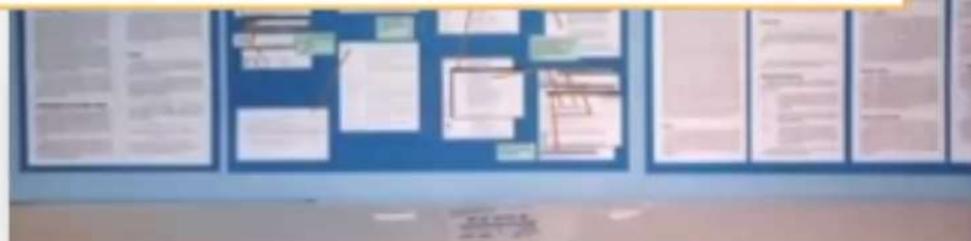
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The page you are looking for does not exist. The page may have been deleted or you may have mistyped.

Try one of these options:

- use the search function
- check whether you have entered the address correctly
- return to the [Start page](#) and try again from there

All the University of St.Gallen's website pages are listed on the [Site map](#).



Schweizer Radio  
und Fernsehen

**SRF Online**



GE Digital



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia



Parship ❤

**HILTI**  
ON!Track



**SAMSUNG**



**nest**

**POLITICO**



The **World Wide Web** is an information system where resources are identified by **Uniform Resource Identifiers** (URIs) which are accessible over the **Internet**, and may be interlinked by **hyperlinks**.

....stretching to **physical devices** as well!



# Even Tiny Devices!



HTTP is not the only player out there!

CoAP has been designed from scratch following the REST architectural style.

The target scenario for CoAP is one of **constrained** nodes and networks

- Constrained nodes can be sensors with **limited memory and processing** power
- Constrained networks can be **slow** and **unreliable** and **intermittent**
- **TCP performs poorly** in low-power wireless networks
- CoAP is optimized for bandwidth and processing efficiency

CoAP

## CoAP Properties

- **Very efficient** REST on top of UDP
- **Lightweight security** to prevent eavesdropping, tampering, forgery
- Specialized for M2M applications: **Multicast & Observe!**
- Easy to proxy from/into HTTP but not a general replacement for HTTP

# Dotdot over Thread

## Thread

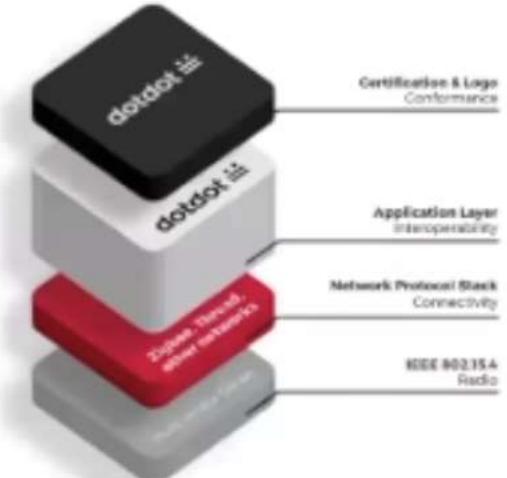
- 802.15.4 for the lower layers
- 6LoWPAN for IPv6 compatibility
- IP routing for network
- UDP for little overhead
- DTLS for security
- "Any" application layer (should be low-bandwidth though...)

## Dotdot = An "application layer brand name"

- CoAP + CoRE Link Format

"Built with the open standards and global membership of the Zigbee Alliance, Dotdot gives us the freedom to choose the brands and products that transform the way we live, work, and play."

<https://zigbeealliance.org/solution/dotdot/>



Application Layer

UDP + DTLS

Distance Vector Routing

6LowPAN (IPv6)

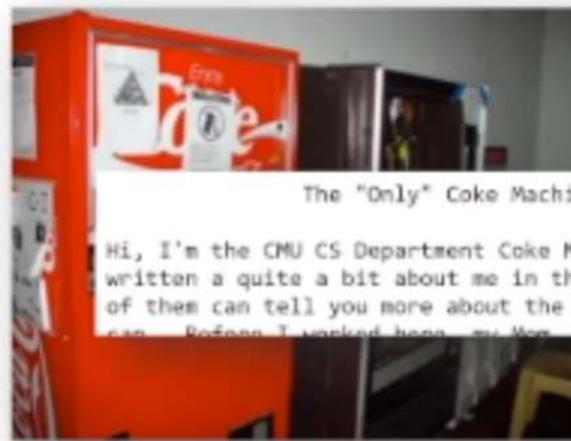
IEEE 802.15.4 MAC  
(including MAC security)

IEEE 802.15.4 PHY



<https://www.electronicdesign.com/iot/engineering-essentials-iot-standards-and-frameworks>

# The IoT and the WoT

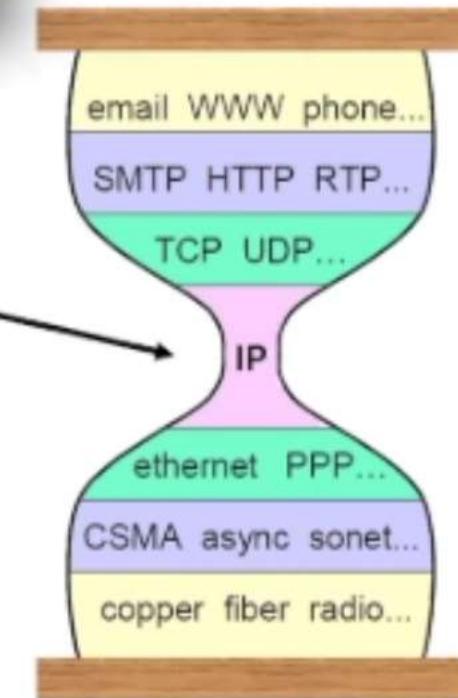


## Original Internet of Things Idea

- Extend the **biggest network effect ever** to physical devices
- **IP-over-Everything, Everything-over-IP**
- One network for **heterogeneous systems**
- Even integrating LoWPANs!

## Original and Current WoT Ideas

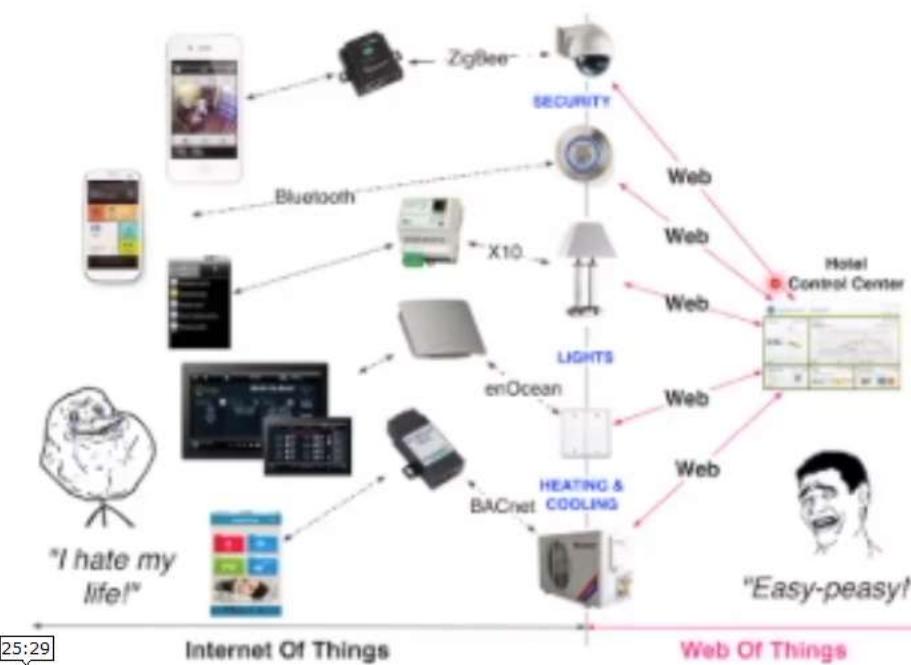
- Apply Web principles to **defragment the IoT's application layers**
- Apply Web principles to **simplify the creation of applications** on top of networked devices
- Apply Web principles to make such **WoT mashups easily usable by people**



Source: Steve Deering, Talk at IETF 51, 2001



## Bay Area Rapid Transit



# Demonstration: A Mashupping Exercise!



## Setup

- Ubiquitous Computing course at ETH Zurich (2016)
- 50 Students (70% MSc, 30% BSc; 70% CS Students)



## Task

- Work with the: **Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) & Yelp Fusion APIs**
- Write a mashup that, given a BART station identifier, lists the 5 best-rated restaurants around that station

**Time** is of the essence: prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> place



Bay Area  
Rapid Transit



# Demonstration: A Mashupping Exercise!



# Demonstration: A Mashupping Exercise!



Solved successfully by 20 teams within the time limit

Submitting students: Felix, Jonathan, Johnathan, Dominik, Tobi, Martin, Andrei, Chris, Nino, Dominik, Thomas, Balz, Ingo, Martina, Simon, Emily, Krisztina, Yongzhe, Mrigya, Daniel



- 4<sup>th</sup> prize: 50min
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: 39min
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: 31min
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize:** 24min



Bay Area  
Rapid Transit



i.e.: a trained individual can use the Web to create a useful (potentially commercializable) application while someone else is in their coffee break.

# Demonstration: A Mashupping Exercise!

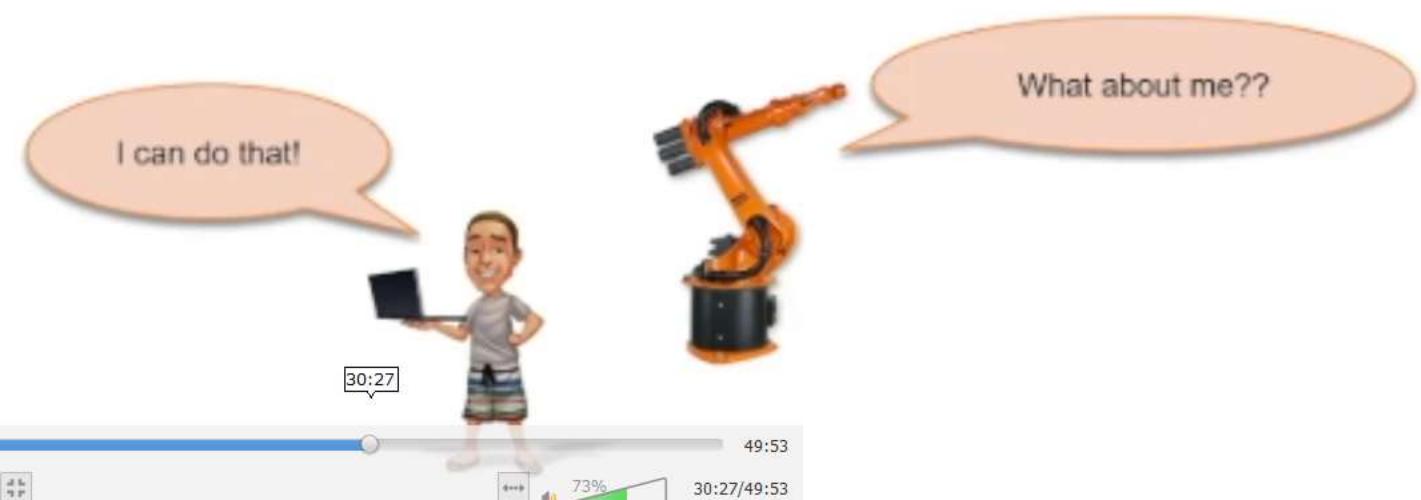


If you want people to use your API, it **must be easy to develop for!**

- **Simple to use:** use widespread patterns and formats
- **Simple to register for:** if a more advanced authentication scheme is used, this must be documented properly
- **High-quality API documentation**
- **Example code and/or client libraries**

These factors make your API easy to use – **for humans!**

Current research concerns **how to make APIs easy to use for machines** ;-)





### Assignment 4: The Bits go Global (7pt)

Deadline: December 11, 2019; 16:00 CET



### ③ Your Sensor goes Global (2pt)

Although you'll only be creating a basic Web server in this task, have a look at the current IRTF recommendations for *RESTful Design for Internet of Things Systems*.<sup>5</sup> Next, create a simple Web server that enables you to read the most recently measured temperature value of your DS18B20 sensor via an HTTP GET request to your Raspberry Pi. You are free to design and implement this Web server from scratch – it is however also permissible that you use the *OpenAPI* API description format for specifying your sensor's Web API and then use the *swagger* tool<sup>6</sup> to automatically generate server code that you can deploy on your RPi. Finally, integrate the (generated) server with the code that accesses the temperature sensor and verify that your system works correctly by accessing the RPi's Web server remotely from a browser or using the Postman application. If you chose to have the server code generated, make sure that you understand it.

④ Physical Mashups! (2pt)

For this task, we provide you with a Web API (OpenAPI description: <https://interactions.ics.unisg.ch/leubot>) to control a *PhantomX Reactor Robot Arm*<sup>7</sup> that is installed in our laboratory space (the robot's name is "Leubot").

Try out the API by reading the description and composing a set of requests to move the arm around. You can verify the robot arm's behavior by checking the live video stream of the robot<sup>8</sup>.

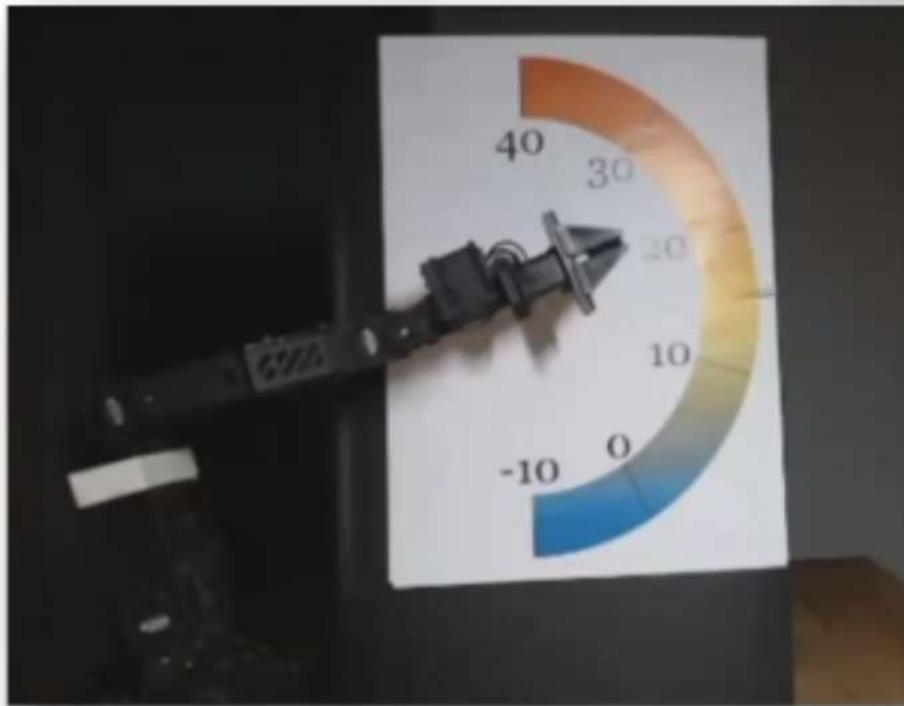


Simon Mayer

[app.swaggerhub.com/apis-docs/iomz/leubot/1.2.1#/user/removeUser](http://app.swaggerhub.com/apis-docs/iomz/leubot/1.2.1#/user/removeUser)

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If creating a robot mashup is this simple, «Industry 4.0» is just a matter of time.

If creating a robot mashup is this simple, **this process can perhaps be fully automated...**

# Leubot API docs - University of St.Gallen (ICS-HSG)

1.2.1 OAS3

API for PhantomX AX-12 Reactor Robot Arm (Leubot) in Büro 61-102.

Users must retrieve an API Key by [addUser](#) for any Leubot control actuation.

After 15 minutes of inactivity, the user will be automatically deleted from the system.



Rate limiting of the API is configured; all the methods allow for 1 request per second to prevent the server from overloading.

Watch the live streaming of the rooms at

- <https://interactions.ics.unisg.ch/61-102/cam1/live-stream>.
- <https://interactions.ics.unisg.ch/61-102/cam2/live-stream>.

Contact the developer

Apache 2.0

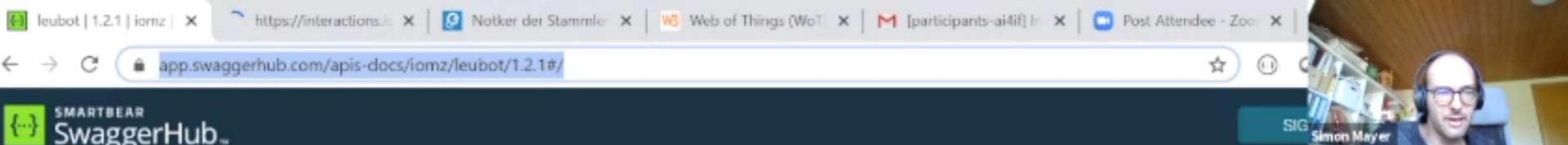
## Servers

<https://api.interactions.ics.unisg.ch/leubot1/v1.2>

Authorize



30:31



leubot | 1.2.1 | iomz | <https://interactions.ics.unisg.ch/leubot1/v1.2/> | Notker der Stammle | Web of Things (WoT) | [participants-ai4if] | Post Attendee - Zoo

SMARTBEAR  
SwaggerHub

SIG Simon Mayer

Servers

<https://api.interactions.ics.unisg.ch/leubot1/v1.2> 

Authorize 

**user** Manage the privilege for the robot control 

**GET** [/user](#) Get the current user information

**POST** [/user](#) Add a user

**DELETE** [/user/{token}](#) Remove a user

**robot** Control base servos of PhantomX AX-12 Reactor Robot Arm (All the request requires a token of the user) 

**PUT** [/elbow](#) Set the elbow joint rotation 

**PUT** [/wrist/angle](#) Set the wrist angle 

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30:50

30:49

49:53



leubot | 1.2.1 | iomz | <https://interactions.io> | Notker der Stammle | Web of Things (WoT) | [participants-aifif] | Post Attendee - Zoo

← → C [app.swaggerhub.com/apis-docs/iomz/leubot/1.2.1#](https://app.swaggerhub.com/apis-docs/iomz/leubot/1.2.1#/)

 SMARTBEAR  
SwaggerHub

 SIG Simon Mayer

robot Control base servos of PhantomX AX-12 Reactor Robot Arm (All the request requires a token of the user)

PUT [/elbow](#) Set the elbow joint rotation 

PUT [/wrist/angle](#) Set the wrist angle 

PUT [/wrist/rotation](#) Set the wrist rotation 

PUT [/gripper](#) Set the gripper 

PUT [/reset](#) Reset the robot 

Schemas

[UserInfo](#) >

 University of St.Gallen

30:51  49:53

27% 30:51/49:53

leubot | 1.2.1 | iomz | <https://interactions.ics.unisg.ch> | Notker der Stammle | [Web of Things \(WoT\)](#) | [\[participants-aifif\].ln](#) | Post Attendee - Zoo | 

← → C 🔒 app.swaggerhub.com/apis-docs/iomz/leubot/1.2.1#/user/getUser

 SMARTBEAR  
SwaggerHub

**GET** /user Get the current user information

Check if anyone is currently using the robot control API

Parameters Cancel

No parameters

Execute Clear

Responses

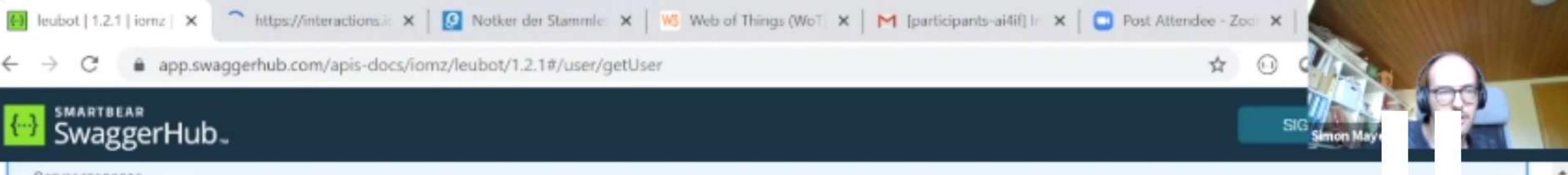
Curl

```
curl -X GET "https://api.interactions.ics.unisg.ch/leubot1/v1.2/user" -H "accept: application/json"
```

Request URI: University of St.Gallen

31:11 49:53

27% 31:11/49:53



leubot | 1.2.1 | iomz | <https://interactions.io> | Notker der Stammle | [Web of Things \(WoT\)](#) | [participants-aifif] | Post Attendee - Zoo

app.swaggerhub.com/apis-docs/iomz/leubot/1.2.1#/user/getUser

SMARTBEAR  
SwaggerHub

SIM SIG Simon May

Server response

Code Details

200

Response body

```
{  
  "name": "",  
  "email": ""  
}
```



Download

Response headers

```
cache-control: no-cache  
content-length: 22  
content-type: application/json; charset=UTF-8  
date: Mon27 Jul 2020 12:11:23 GMT  
etag: W/"16-fk+yUvFtt/aj6u/6qRkQeHk7/f8"  
expires: -1  
server: nginx/1.14.1  
status: 200 OK  
via: 1.1 c76347c8ef1f3a2b6fb69cd7d1c6f749.cloudfront.net (CloudFront)  
x-amz-cf-id: guMm3jvd5T1N4yYt7WT1RXFsXy3WF77MBLm0n5PS52YfL5LntNmMBA==  
x-amz-cf-pop: ZRH50-C1  
x-cache: Miss from cloudfront  
x-powered-by: ExpressPhusion Passenger 5.3.4
```

Request duration

1320 ms



University of St. Gallen

# Point in Case: The Europeana Website

(example from R. Verborgh: Web Fundamentals Introduction)



Europeana: Aggregates and exposes **cultural heritage metadata** from more than 2000 institutions (British Library, Louvre, Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen, etc.) – requires a **long-term architectural vision**

Europeana resources are identified by URIs:

[https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/record/9200143/BibliographicResource\\_2000069304654](https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/record/9200143/BibliographicResource_2000069304654)

Europeana publishes its data...

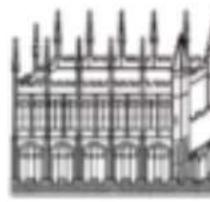
- On a website with content negotiation (HTML and JSON)
- Via a dedicated machine API

Using the Europeana website as a **machine** is thus possible in **two ways**

1. Use the regular website and request JSON data
2. Use the dedicated machine API

What do you think: **Which one is easier to implement?**

↗ You're viewing this item in the new Europeana website. [View this item in the original Europeana.](#)



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# Notker der Stammer, Mönch von Sankt Gallen, über die taten Karls des Grossen nach der ausgabe der Monumenta Germaniae

Gesta Caroli Magni

Edition: 5

5. aufl.

CONTENT YOU MIGHT LIKE

Notker the Stammerer

# Point in Case: The Europeana Website

(example from R. Verborgh: Web Fundamentals Introduction)



Accessing [https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/record/9200143/BibliographicResource\\_2000069304654](https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/record/9200143/BibliographicResource_2000069304654) as a machine client...

## Option 1: Use the **regular website** and request JSON data

1. Set a request header to "Accept: application/json"
2. Request the data at [https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/record/9200143/BibliographicResource\\_2000069304654](https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/record/9200143/BibliographicResource_2000069304654)
3. Do whatever you wanted to do...

## Option 2: Use the **dedicated machine API** (see <https://gist.github.com/RubenVerborgh/7684361/#gistcomment-959892>)

1. Read the [documentation](#)
2. Get an [API key](#)
3. Find the right URL template for the API call
4. Find out the object ID of your object (non-trivial because of the URL template)
5. Fill out the template to construct the URL
6. Retrieve a representation using this URL
7. Do whatever you wanted to do...

All of this was not required for the human-readable website, even though the retrieved information is exactly the same, just the format is different!



DavidHaskiya commented on 28 Nov 2013



Simon Mayer

Hi Ruben,

Ouch! And thanks. Well, it's obvious that we have a lot of improvements to do on our documentation! We'll take your experience to heart as we're now working on a major update of our API-docs. I'll get back to you once we've improved our docs and hopefully your next review will be a bit more positive.

As to your question on 27 I guess one of the mistakes we've made is that we wrongfully assumed that API-users would begin with a search, e.g. <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/api/console.html?function=search&query=multatuli> and then pick up the id and/or provided record call directly from the response (both are included) for the full record call, e.g. <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/api/console.html?function=record&profile=full&recordId=%2F92062%2F8E88751AB58C3D950E96A4C92505DB8600BB99C4>

Bad assumption.

Cheers,  
David



RubenVerborgh commented on 28 Nov 2013

I

Author Owner ...

Hi David,

Thanks for getting back on this, I appreciate it and would be glad to check out the improved version.

Documentation is indeed one part (and often neglected, but you obviously invested a lot in it). The assumption you mention is an important one. It indicates that people had an RPC-style scenario in mind: first call this, then call that.

For me, a huge collection is all about the resources and how they interlink, and not so much about a sequence of operations performed on them. It's about API design as well and I know that is much more difficult to change than documentation. I'm

# Point in Case



<https://ras.papercept.net/conferences/scripts/start.pl>





The PaperPlaza Conference/Journal Management System

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**Welcome to The PaperPlaza Conference/Journal Review Management System** 

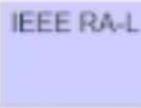
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	Organized session proposal	January 10, 2020	February 1, 2020	Closed
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	Plenary Talk	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020	Closed
	Keynote Talk	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020	Closed
	Lifetime Talk	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020	Closed
Late Breaking Results Poster	June 21, 2020	July 21, 2020	Closed	
TRO submission	May 1, 2020	May 30, 2020	Closed	
RAM submission	May 1, 2020	May 24, 2020	Closed	
<b>Final submissions</b>	Contributed paper	June 30, 2020	July 31, 2020	<a href="#">Log in</a>
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Simon Mayer

University of St.Gallen

41:46 49:53



https://ras.papercept.net/conferences/scripts/start.pl



https://ras.papercept.net/conferences/scripts/start.pl — Aufrufen



Mayer, Simon



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News

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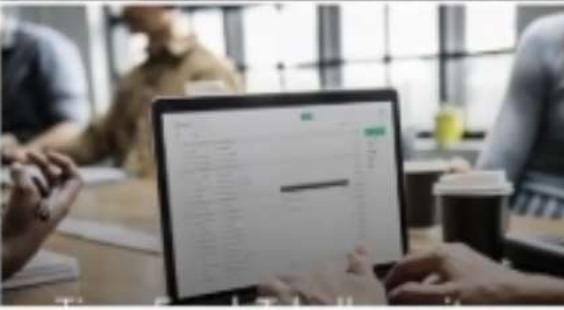
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# Properly using URLs



**Principle: A resource should relate a URL to a concept**

*http://example.org/songs/showDetails.php*

vs.

*http://example.org/songs/3563642*



**What** does this URL represent?

Is it useful to **bookmark** this URL?

Is it useful to **share** this URL?

# Supporting Statelessness



**Principle: Each message should be self-descriptive**

`/songs?artist=5521`  
`/?page=2`  
`/?page=3`

vs.

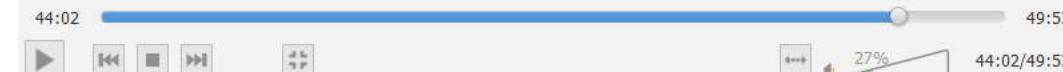
`/songs?artist=5521`  
`/songs?artist=5521&page=2`  
`/songs?artist=5521&page=3`

**What** does this URL represent?

Is it useful to **bookmark** this URL?

Is it useful to **share** this URL?

44:02



Source: R. Verborgh, Web Fundamentals

# Making use of Hypermedia



**Principle: The interaction should be driven by hypermedia**

```
{ "title": "Baba O'Riley", "artist": { "id": 5521 } }
```

vs.

```
{ "title": "Baba O'Riley", "artist": { "id": "http://example.org/artists/5521" } }
```



Can I derive a **useful next interaction** from this?

# Controlling API Access



Pattern in many online services: **Websites are open**, but require **API keys** for machine access

- “We need to rate-limit machine access”
- “We need to track automated access”
- “We need to protect our data”

But they **break things** by personalizing URLs and thereby blocking the bookmarking, sharing and caching of resource representations

**API keys don't help** with this, since the **HTML website contains the exact same information without a key**. In other words: **one can extract all data from HTML, it's just more tedious!**

More complex/costly ways of “protecting” API access have similar problems...

Example: Twitter Search API (<https://developer.twitter.com/en/docs/tweets/search/overview>)

Take-home idea: protect your **resources**, not your **resource representations**!

# Better API Design for Machine Clients



Ideally, use the **same resources** that your human-centered website is based on and just **extend that site with machine-readable, linkable, representations**. Ideally, your machine API then **does not require documentation** (just like a human-centered website)

Take care though:

- Encouraging clients to have code **generated from an API description** is a can of worms, as clients are then tightly coupled with your API!
- This was (historically) one of the central problems of the WS-\* specifications: clients were hard-compiled against API descriptions!

**If your API gives access to a physical thing, consider these best practices:**

<http://w3c.github.io/wot/current-practices/wot-practices.html>

Next, we put these best practices in context through a (brief) look at the **Web Architecture**



Simon Mayer

## From the IoT to the WoT: Network-level and Application-level Interoperability

## Discussion: Good Practices for Web APIs

## Tidbits from the Web Architecture

## Hypermedia APIs

# Let's take a break!



<http://w3c.github.io/wot/current-practices/wot-practices.html>